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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5-8 and 10-12; and cancel claims 13-20; add new claims 21 and 22, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making ~~an~~ a tissue adhesive, comprising the steps of:

~~derivatizing collagen with a functional group;~~

heating a solution including collagen derivatized with a COO<sup>-</sup> functional group to thereby gelatinize said derivatized collagen;

adding derivatized collagen to said solution, said derivatized collagen being derivatized with a COO<sup>-</sup> functional group; and

~~heating a composition including said derivatized collagen to thereby increase a concentration of said derivatized collagen in said composition~~ repeating said heating and adding steps until the derivatized collagen concentration in said solution is from 300 mg/ml (30%) up to 800 mg/ml (80%), said added derivatized collagen in said solution being gelatinized after said repeated heating steps.

2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of extracting said collagen from a tissue source prior to said derivatizing step.

3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein said tissue source includes an animal tissue.

4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said derivatizing step includes a step of reacting said collagen with 4-mercapto-1,8-naphthalic anhydride.

5. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein said derivatizing step ~~further~~ includes a step of reaction with glutaric anhydride.

6. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, ~~further comprising additional heating steps to adjust said concentration of said derivatized collagen in said composition~~ further comprising the step of derivatizing said collagen with an SH<sup>-</sup> functional group.

7. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a step of adding a pH altering material to said ~~derivatized collagen~~ to thereby adjust a pH of said ~~composition~~ solution to be within a ~~desired~~ range of 6.8-7.8.

8. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~7~~ 1, ~~wherein said desired range is 6.8-7.8~~ further comprising the step of deaerating said solution.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said pH altering material includes NaOH.

10. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~7~~ 8, further comprising the step of:

adding a material to said solution, said material being selected from the group of collagen fibrils, collagen fibers and collagen fiber bundles.

11. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of making an adhesive,~~ ~~comprising the steps of:~~

~~derivatizing collagen with a functional group, and~~  
~~increasing a concentration of said derivatized collagen in a~~

composition in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of solidifying said solution.

12. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising the step of ~~extracting said collagen from a tissue source prior to said derivatizing step~~ sectioning said solidified solution into strips.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said added collagen is dried collagen.

22. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said added collagen is lyophilized.